

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1699

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3061

EO 11652: N/CD
TAGS: SHUM, CS
SUBJ: REGIONALLY-FOCUSSED SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS: COSTA RICA

REF: STATE 176956

1. COSTA RICANS OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE, BOTH OFFICIAL AND UN-OFFICIAL, OF BOTH THIS ADMINISTRATION AND PREVIOUS ONE, OVER-WHELMINGLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY HAVE WELCOMED U.S. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE THEY ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF COSTA RICA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, THEY BELIEVE THAT U.S. LEADERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS STATEMENTS BY COSTA RICANS PLEASED WITH THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND THE ATTENDANT INCREASED IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN COSTA RICA AND THE U.S. NOT UNTYPICAL WAS THE 4TH OF JULY STATEMENT MADE AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER LIC. RAFAEL ANGEL CALDERON FOURNIER, WHICH BEGAN, "WE ARE A PEOPLE SMALL IN NUMBERS, BUT WHOSE GREAT IDEALS PERMIT IT TO STAND TOGETHER WITH THOSE PEOPLE GREAT IN BOTH NUMBERS AND IDEALS. IT IS THEREFORE NOT AT ALL STRANGESTHAT COSTA RICA CAN RAISE ITS VOICE JUST AS LOUDLY AS DOES THE U.S. IN PROCLAIMING THE IRREVERSIBLE SUPREMACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS..."

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3. ALSO, IT MAY BE OF INTEREST THAT WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE U.S., PRESIDENT RODRIGO CARAZO VERBALIZED COSTA RICA'S INTENSE INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AT A DINNER RECENTLY HOSTEDSIN HIS HONOR BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE SAID "COSTA RICA IS DISPOSED TO OFFER TO THE WORLD A PLACE WHERE THE TRIUMPH OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROCLAIMS THAT MAN IS THE SON OF GOD, A FREE AND TRANSCENDENT BEING, WHOSE GLORY AND DIGNITY WE MUST PROTECT

PERMANENTLY."

WEISSMAN

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